

December 16, 2016

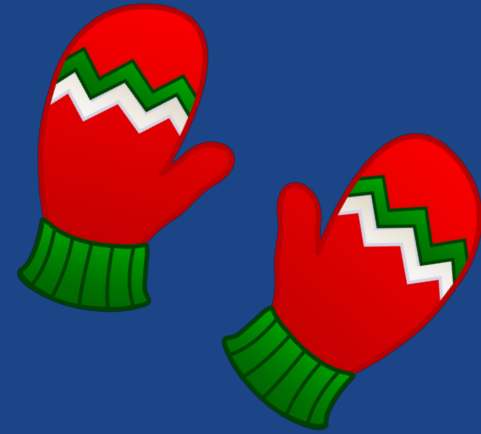


# From the desks of Mrs. Shober & Mrs. Kries

- Dates to remember:
  - December 20th and 21st- Holiday parties.
  - December 22- Single Session Day
  - December 23-January 2nd- School Closed. Enjoy your holiday break!



# Welcome Winter!



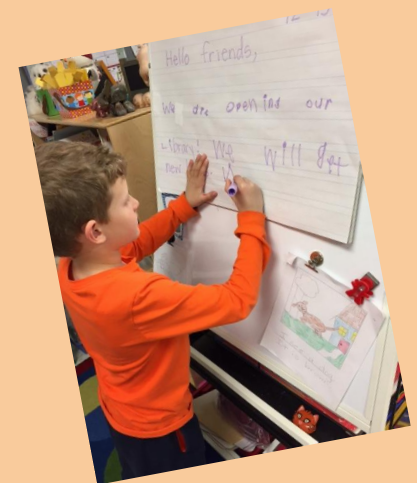
Winter is approaching quickly.

- ★ Please make sure to send your children with cold weather gear to school each day. Winter coats, hats and gloves may be needed for the walk in from the bus and recess each day.



## Mrs. Elms' and Mrs. Roman's Kindergarteners

Do you know about Morning Meeting? Many classrooms at Whiton like to get the day started with Morning Meeting. It varies from grade to grade, but here is one Kindergarten style! First, we have fun greeting each other while we are in our morning meeting circle. Greeting each other creates camaraderie and makes everyone feel welcome! We work on using eye contact and crisp, clear voices. It's nice to start each day by seeing a friend's smile and hear them say hi to you! After our greeting, we have some friends share and show something they brought from home. After our shares, we write our daily message, with Kinder friends coming up to help write letters, add words and punctuation. We end our meeting by saying the Pledge of Allegiance and singing a patriotic song. Whew! Then it's time to jump into our language arts/reading block.





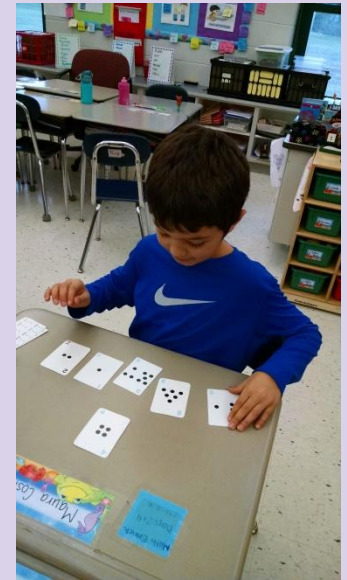
Speaking of language arts-we are readers! The Kindergarteners have been hard at work reading Old Favorites ...books written long ago...all the way back to the 1960's and 1950's, as well as even before that (so old!!). Old Favorites are books Kindergartener's parents heard when they were little and maybe even their grandparents heard some of them as children! We are reading these stories in order to learn how book language sounds, how the plot works in a story and how characters have feelings and voices and help tell a story with a beginning, middle and end. All this Old Favorite work will help the Kindergarteners as they learn to read, because using the meaning and the structure of a story to read is just as important as looking at the words. We had fun rereading our books often, so we could use some of the same words the author used. Do you know what characters say the following lines? "Run, run, as fast as you can...."! Or "Who will help me cut this wheat"? We know and we used these exact words when reading our books! We made our voices sound mean like the Troll in Three Billy Goats Gruff and the Wolf in The Three Little Pigs. We made our voices sound scared like Hattie the Hen and some of her animal friends in Hattie and the Fox. We felt frustrated like the Peddler in Caps For Sale. We used book language like "Once upon a time" and read our books using transition words such as "then" and "after that". The Kindergarteners even made stick puppets and used them to tell some of their books, and they got to act out parts of their books with their bodies and voices, just like putting on a mini show! With all this wonderful work with meaning and structure, we are delving into our next reading unit...We Are Super Readers, where we are learning lots about the visual part of reading, like different ways to solve unknown words and expanding sight word knowledge.

Happy Holidays everyone!



# Measurement Math Workshop Style Ms. Pernini

We are learning to measure to the nearest  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch. In order to practice these skills we are using different methods and tools of measurement. Writing our names in cursive and then using string to measure them was a creative form of measurement. We are also making predictions on who will have the longest name. Standard rulers are being used to measure common objects. It's been a fun unit so far!



*Math with a Buddy*

*Math with Technology*



*Math with the Teacher*



# Physical Education

Mrs. Kolbe



Students are moving and getting stronger. Both second and third graders have been working with resistance bands and using them at various circuit stations. Students reviewed muscles exercised and learned how to properly (and safely) use the bands.

Kindergarten and first graders are working on throwing and rolling skills, while cooperating with one another at stations. In addition, they are becoming quick steppers by leaping over hurdles and using an agility ladder. Students must remember sneakers on PE cycle days in order to enjoy all the fun activities!

# Agility ladder & hurdles



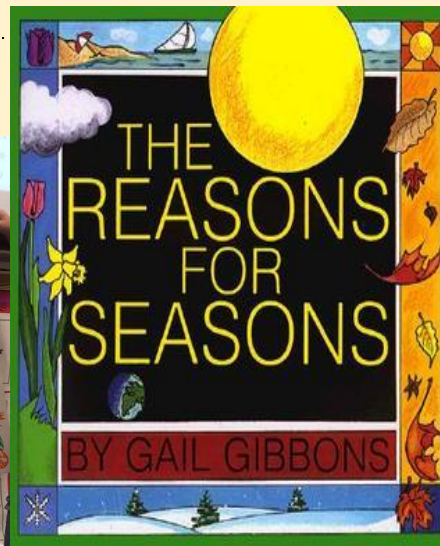
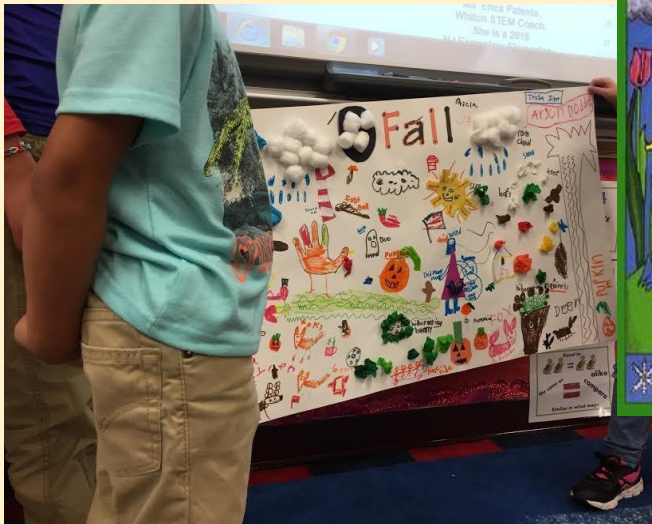


# Smith's scientists study SEASONS!

We've made the shift in Science to NGSS standards.

The focus is more student directed as our little scientists ask questions, investigate, and assess their learning in the form of performance based projects!

In our first unit, Earth's Place in the Universe, first graders learned what causes day and night, as well as how the Earth's revolution around the sun gives us the change in seasons!



At the end of our Unit, students were placed into groups and assigned one season. Parents were invited in to assist each group as they discussed, collaborated, and created a poster displaying characteristics of each season. Finally, students presented their creations to the entire class, taking questions and comments from the engaged audience. Students loved this hands-on learning experience!

# Mrs. Koscielski's Speech Class

## Speech Therapy in December



The game CariBoo has been a favorite game for many of my students. I have adapted the game by turning it into a Holiday game as I made pictures of December Holiday items. This game can be used as a reward or as a fun way to address various speech and language goals. Some of the skills that we have worked on include the following: vocabulary, articulation, memory, turn taking, phonemic awareness, rhyming, listening, direction following, and spatial concepts.



Dear Parents of our emerging readers,

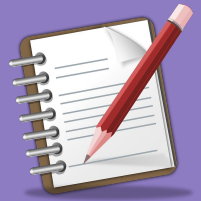
Your child has worked very hard and made wonderful progress toward becoming an independent reader. Thank you for your support of his/her efforts. Below are a few thoughts of what you can continue to do at home during the upcoming break to help your child become an independent reader.

1. Read at least two books from his/her book selection *every night*. Familiar rereading helps increase a child's rate and fluency.
2. Read in phrases, not word by word, using punctuation.
3. Self-correct at point of difficulty using letter cues, story meaning and/or rereading to hear the words in the story.
4. Allow time to try and try again. Your silence when they try is really a show of confidence in their ability to problem solve.

Your continued support is truly appreciated. I am wishing everyone a safe holiday season, and a peaceful new year.

Take special care,  
Donna Meehan ☺

Mrs. DeLorenzo  
Awesome News



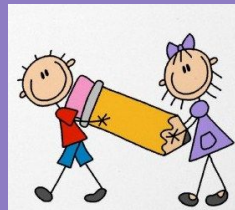
We have been writing wonderful stories during Writing Workshop! The students are continuing to brainstorm ideas and get thoughts down on paper in story form. They are also continuing to have conferences to help them generate their ideas and find out what they are writing about that day.

We have recently completed Writing Workshop Unit 2, which focused on “All About” stories.

The students have been writing stories about something they know a great deal about. Some of them have chosen to write about themselves or certain people. Some students chose to write an all about story about a certain animal. Some have chosen specific things to write about.

They celebrated the end of the unit by choosing a story to publish, having a book Sharing Party and displaying their books in the hallway for all to see!

The students are looking forward to beginning a new unit! They also look forward to sharing their stories with their classmates each day!





FROM THE WHITON STAFF!